

Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG)

U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

The Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) is charged by the USGCRP with planning, coordinating, implementing, evaluating, and reporting on Federal research and related scientific activities on the human health impacts of global environmental change. The CCHHG integrates relevant science, technology, and information programs and capabilities through interagency, interdisciplinary, and intergovernmental collaborations that span the continuum from basic research to decision making to implementation. The ultimate goal of this integration is to ensure communities that are healthy and resilient to climate change impacts.

The CCHHG focuses on increasing the understanding and awareness of all impacts of climate change on human health, including increased illnesses and deaths from extreme heat events; injuries, and deaths from extreme weather events; and respiratory illnesses due to changes in air quality, as well as illnesses and deaths that may arise from climate-related changes in ecosystems, infectious agents, or agricultural production. The CCHHG also considers potential health benefits, as well as unintended hazards that may result from climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The CCHHG incorporates a One Health approach, which recognizes that the health of humans, animals, and the environment are inextricably linked.

Engagement Efforts

The CCHHG engages with participating USGCRP agencies, as well as other Federal agencies that have relevant missions and programs. External stakeholder engagement is also critical to inform the identification and prioritization of research needs, increase understanding of potential health impacts from various sectors, and increase coordination with public health interventions at the regional, state, local, and tribal levels. Recognizing this, the CCHHG engages stakeholders through workshops, listening sessions, participation in climate change and health communities of practice, and other forms of information sharing.

CCHHG Co-Chairs

The USGCRP Interagency Crosscutting Group on Climate Change and Human Health (CCHHG) has three co-chairs who provide overall leadership and ensure a One Health approach to the full spectrum of activities the group is working on. Current co-chairs are representatives from the following agencies:

- HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- HHS/National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



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CCHHG Workstreams

The CCHHG has identified a set of key workstreams to carry out its activities:

Adaptation—including ongoing support for the Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force

Assessment—including technical input and stakeholder engagement support for the National Climate Assessment

Communication, Education, and Engagement—including coordination with broader USGCRP communication, education, and engagement activities

Data Integration—including development of an interactive metadata clearinghouse of data sets, early warning systems, and monitoring tools related to the health impacts of global climate change

Joint Research and Funding Planning—including development of a human health and climate change research framework, gap analysis, prioritization of research needs, and coordination of joint funding opportunities

International—including review of International health adaptation plans and assessments to capture lessons learned, and engagement with the global health community on climate change and health

USGCRP Participating Agencies and Departments

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Commerce
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Health & Human Services
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Fogarty International Center
 - National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Interior
 - U.S. Geological Survey
- Department of State
- National Aeronautics & Space Administration
- National Science Foundation
- Smithsonian Institution
- U.S. Agency for International Development
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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